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Message Text

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72
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 NASA-04 CU-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /108 W
---------- 123585
R 071045Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3133

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10459

DEPARTMENT PASS NASA

FOLLOWING TEL SENT NEW DELHI, CALCUTTA MADRAS
FROM BOMBAY AUG 6, 1974 REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 1826

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TSPA
SUBJ: RANGNEKAR IV GRANTEE RETURNS FROM US VISIT

REF BOMBAY 1811

1. IN COURSE LONG LUNCHEON AUG 5 WITH EDITOR ECONOMIC TIMES RANGNEKAR, RECENTLY RETURNED IV GRANTEE, BELIEVE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF INTEREST GIVEN INFLUENTIAL POSITION ENJOYED BY ECONOMIC TIMES AND CLOSENESS HIS TIES PM.

2. AS INDICATED REFTEL, RANGNEDKAR'S VISIT US APPEARS TO HAVE HAD A CONSIDERABLE AND HIGHLY FAVORABLE IMPACT ON HIM. HE SEES US NOW AS A "VIBRANT" DYNAMIC SOCIETY AND ONE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM MENTAL PICTURE HE HAD BEFORE VISIT OF US AS A "SUPER RICH" SOCIETY WITH ALL THE UNFAVORABLE ATTRIBUTES THAT HAVE BEEN ASCRIBED BY CERTAIN WRITERS TO SUCH A SOCIETY. FOR FIRST TIME HE SAID HE HAD SEEN "TRUE DEMOCRACY" IN ACTION. HE PLEASED WITH HIS ARRANGEMENTS IN US AND HOPES RETURN
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ONE DAY.

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3. CERTAIN ASPECTS HIS VISIT GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER TREATED REFTEL. WHILE HE CONTINUES HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS AS TO HOW EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL SATELLITE WILL BE IN FIELDS SUCH AS FAMILY PLANNING, HE IMPRESSED BY WHAT HE SAW AND FULLY SATISFIED AS RESULT VISIT THAT ALLEGATIONS MADE THAT IT WILL BE USED SPY ON INDIA ARE BASELESS. HE PLEASED THAT SCIENTIST IN CHARGE PROJECT HAD SINGLED OUT THREE OF 9 INDIAN SCIENTISTS THERE TO COMMEND THEM SAYING OF FOUR RECEIVING STATIONS DEVELOPED (TWO BY GE, ONE BY PHILLIPS, AND ONE BY INDIANS), ONE DEVELOPED BY INDIANS CONSIDERED BEST. RANGNEKAR ALSO MADE POINT GOI SHOULD SEEK PERSUADE US ALLOW SATELLITE REMAIN OVER INDIA FOR MORE EXTENDED TIME (STATE 167342). HE INDICATED THAT ON THIS AND SIMILAR MATTERS, HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO HELP PUT BASELESS ALLEGATIONS IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE ALTHOUGH HE RULED OUT WRITING ARTICLES WITH THIS END IN VIEW.

4. RANGNEKAR DEFINITELY FEELS THAT TURN-AROUND HAS BEEN ACHIEVED INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND THAT THEY ON UPSWING NOTING IMPORTANCE TO THIS PROCESS OF STEPS TAKEN OVER PAST YEAR SUCH AS PL480 AGREEEMENT. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD NOT BE INDEFINITELY DELAYED AND I ASSURED HIM OF SECRETARY'S FIRM INTENTION AND DESIRE VISIT INDIA THIS FALL ALTHOUGH DATE REMAINED TO BE FIXED. HE THOUGH SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD GIVE IMPETUS AND NEW DEFINITION FAVORABLE TREND INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

5. RANGNEKAR RAISED SUBJECT US AID SUGGESTING MRS GANDHI HAVING TAKEN POSITION SHE HAS IN RECENT PAST FINDS IT DIFFICULT POLITICALLY TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE. HE THOUGHT SECRETARY'S VISIT MIGHT PROVIDE MEANS OVERCOMING THIS PROBLEM. HE WENT ON EXPRESS PERSONAL VIEW THAT HE WISHED GOI WOULD SEEK CREDIT ARRANGEMENT FROM US WHEREBY IT COULD BUY SAY 3 MILLION TONS OF FOODGRAINS FOR EACH OF NEXT 5 YEARS AS MEANS STABILIZING AND REDUCING SPECULATIVE ELEMENT FOOD SITUATION HERE. NOTED SHE COULD USE SOME ECONOMISTS.

6. HE CONFIRMED THAT MRS GANDHI HAS INDEED MODIFIED HER THINKING ON PRIVATE SECTOR ECONOMY BUT SAID THAT IF RESULTS WERE NOT FORTHCOMING SHE COULD CHANGE BACK AGAIN. I NOTED TOUGHER LINE SHE TAKING, MOST RECENTLY AT POONA IN TAKING CHIEF
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MIN NAIK TO TASK FOR FAILURE MAKE MORE PROGRESS ON FOOD FRONT. HE CONFIRMED TOUGHER STANCE AND WENT ON SAY THAT NOT ONLY HAD SHE TAKEN NAIK TO TAST ON AGRICULTURAL FRONT, SHE HAD ALSO TABLED A TWO-PAGE LETTER WHICH HE HAD SEEN IN CONFIDENCE IN WHICH SHE TOOK GOM TO TASK OVER BOMBAY'S DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS INCLUDING CRITICISM OF GOM'S RECLAMATION SCHEMES. IN RESPONSE MY QUESTION, HE DIDN'T THINK NAIK WOULD GO TO CABINET DELHI AS HAS BEEN RUMORED BY SOME. HE DID NOT COMMENT

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ON NAIK'S PRESENT POSITION EXCEPT TO SAY THAT MRS GANDHI DOES NOT WANT TO SEE GOM MIN AGICULTURE S.B. CHAVAN BECOME CHIEF MIN. HE DOUBTED MIN IRRIGATION VASANTRAO PATIL WOULD GOT NOD EITHER. HE DID NOT SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT MRS GANDHI MOVING TO DISPLACE NAIK. (COMMENT: THIS COULD CREATE MORE DIFFICULTIES FOR HER AND WE INCLINED DOUBT SHE WILL IN NEAR TERM).

7. IN CONTEXT EXPRESSION HIS DISTASTE WITH BLITZ COVER PHOTO THIS WEEK OF HEADLESS SECRETARY KISSINGER SHAKING HANDS WITH MRS GANDHI (BOMBAY 1765), RANGNEKAR SAID BLITZ EDITOR KARANJIA HAS BEEN IN TOUCH AND WILL BE COMING SEE HIM THIS WEEK. RANGNEKAR OF OPINION KARANJAIA SHOULD CONFINE HIMSELF TO TRADITIONAL TABLOID EXPOSURE DOMESTIC SCANDALS AND PURSUIT OF CAUSES AND SHOULD STEER CLEAR OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ARENA AND ATTACKS SUCH AS THOSE ON SECRETARY AND PRES NIXON. I SAID AMEN. RANGNEKAR THINKS KARANJIA COMING TO CONCLUSION THAT THIS ISN'T PAYING OFF AND IN FACT MAY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND MAY BE READY TO TAKE NEW TACK. I SAID LET US HOPE SO.

8. COMMENT: I BELIEVE RANGNEKAR VISIT US HAS HAD EXTREMELY FAVORABLE IMPACT ON HIM AND I THINK HE MAY BE MORE HELPFUL IN FUTURE IN PUTTING ALLEGATIONS MADE ABOUT US IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. HE PLANS TO VISIT DELHI AROUND AUG 12. IN EVENT SCHEDULES PERMIT, I WOULD HOPE AMBASSADOR MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE HIM IF POSSIBLE DO SO.
BANE UNQUOTE. MOYNIHAN

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